

HOUSE RESOLUTION 157

By Holt

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Junior and Sylvia Simmons on the celebration of their 70th wedding anniversary.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body take great pleasure in paying tribute to those successful marriages that have stood the test of time to serve as exemplars for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, on February 11, 1946, Junior Dell Simmons and Sylvia May Elinor were joined in holy matrimony, and since that fateful day, this outstanding couple has faced the world as one, basking in the glow of their love for each other during both life's joys and sorrows; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Simmons have been highly respected citizens of their community for almost sixty years; they are the very epitome of good neighbors, as they always endeavor to treat others as they would like to be treated; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simmons was called to serve in the United States Army near the end of World War II and married Mrs. Simmons just before his three month deployment to occupied Japan; and

WHEREAS, upon his return to the United States, the reunited newlyweds moved into Mr. Simmons's childhood home near Como, bought seventeen acres of land, and began their lifelong commitment to farming; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, the family moved to a farm in the New Salem community near Sharon where Mr. Simmons and the couple's oldest son, Eddie Simmons, eventually formed Simmons Farms in 1971 and continued to expand the family's farming operation for many years; and

WHEREAS, despite his retirement from farming in 1989 and the dissolution of his partnership with Eddie in 2012, Mr. Simmons continues to work, devoting most of his time to

buying and restoring antique tractors in his shop. For more than twenty years he has collected approximately thirty tractors and participated in many tractor shows and pulls; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Simmons has been a devoted housewife and mother, working long hours tending to the house and children, helping around the farm, sewing the family's clothes, cooking every day, and maintaining the family's garden every year. She also remains active in her community, serving as an officer in her homemakers' club for over fifty years; and

WHEREAS, deeply rooted and much loved members of Corinth Baptist Church for sixty years, Mr. and Mrs. Simmons have raised their family to be positive examples to those around them by making a difference in their community; and

WHEREAS, this fine couple's praiseworthy marriage has produced four children, each of whom has excelled in his or her particular field of endeavor; the Simmonses' children are Eddie Simmons, Gail Darnell, Nancy Scott, and Diana Arant; and

WHEREAS, the Simmonses are also the proud grandparents of Eric Simmons, Samantha Ray, Trevor Arant, Katie Graves, Dustin Arant, Lance Darnell, Daniel Arant, John Scott, David Scott, and Charlie Scott; and the great grandparents of Eva Simmons, Brittan Simmons, Andrew Scott, Maddie Scott, Billy Scott, Deegan Arant, Ryder Arant, and Weston Arant; and

WHEREAS, for seventy years this blessed union has grown and prospered as an expression of time-honored family values and selfless love; and

WHEREAS, marriages such as the Simmonses' are truly the rock-solid foundation upon which our society is built and a beacon of sanity and continuity in these turbulent times; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Junior and Sylvia Simmons on the celebration of their 70th wedding anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for much continued happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.